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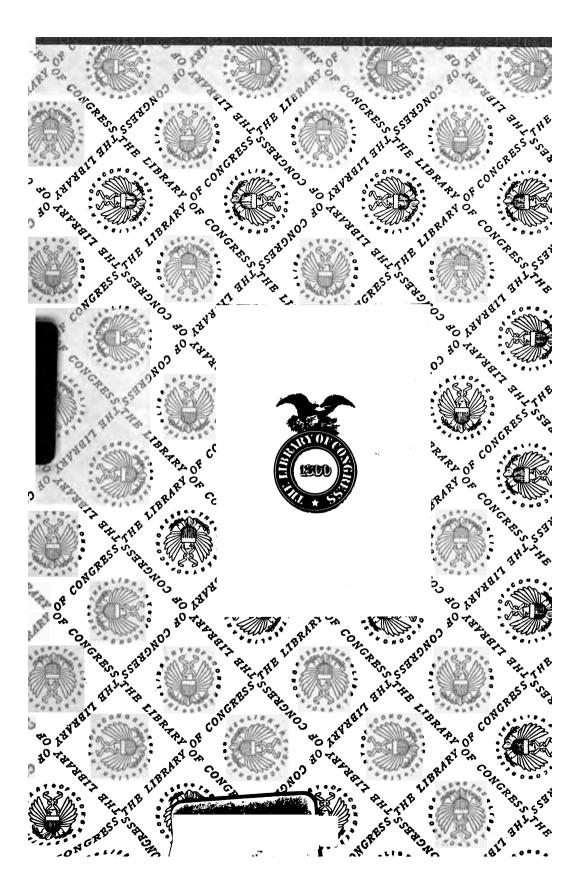
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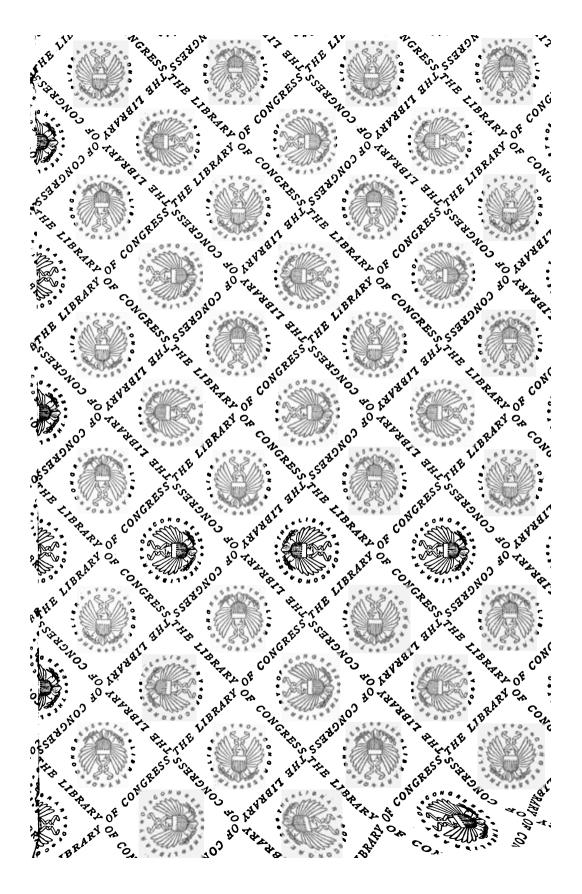
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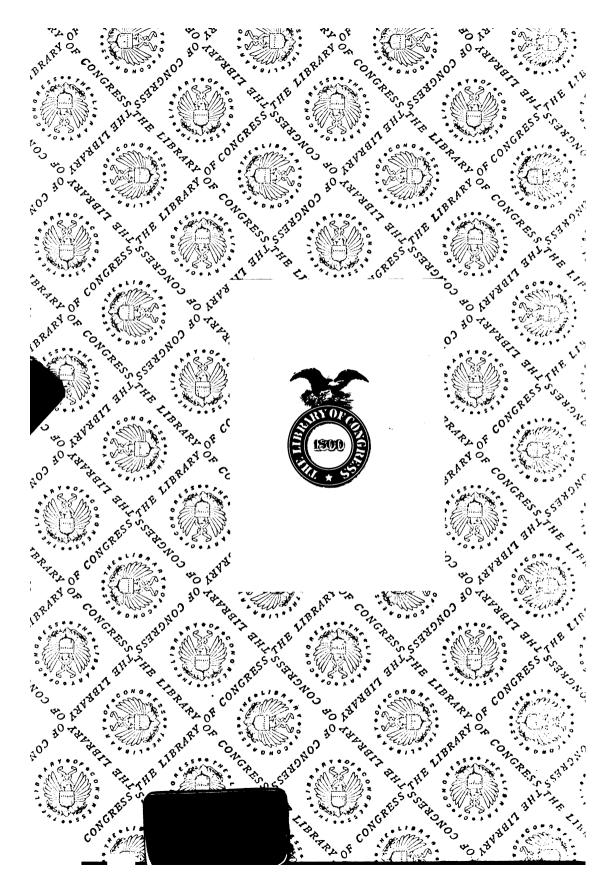
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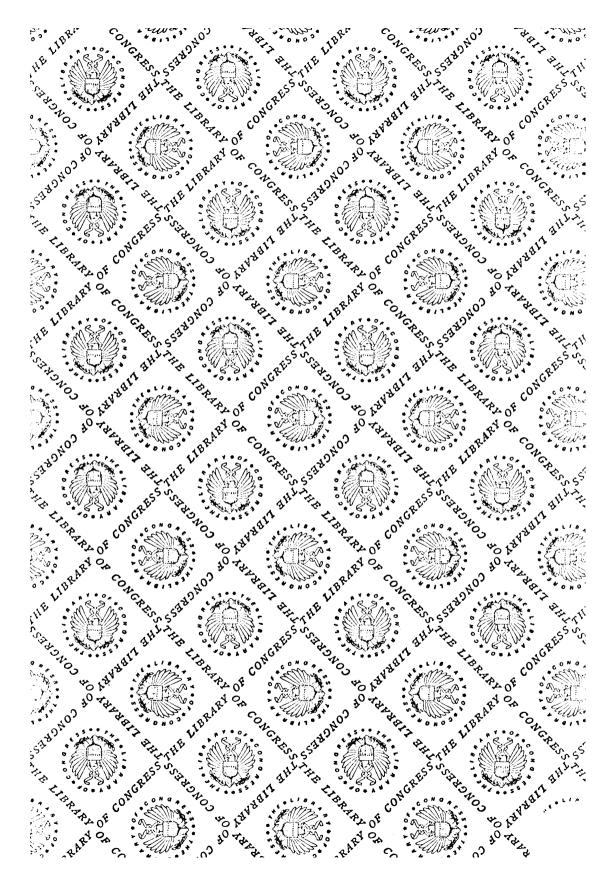
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STABILIZING PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

 $\mathcal{A}^{S_{n}}$ Congress House of representatives

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

MARCH 8, 1922

SERIES O (Supplemental)



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1922



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

House of Representatives.

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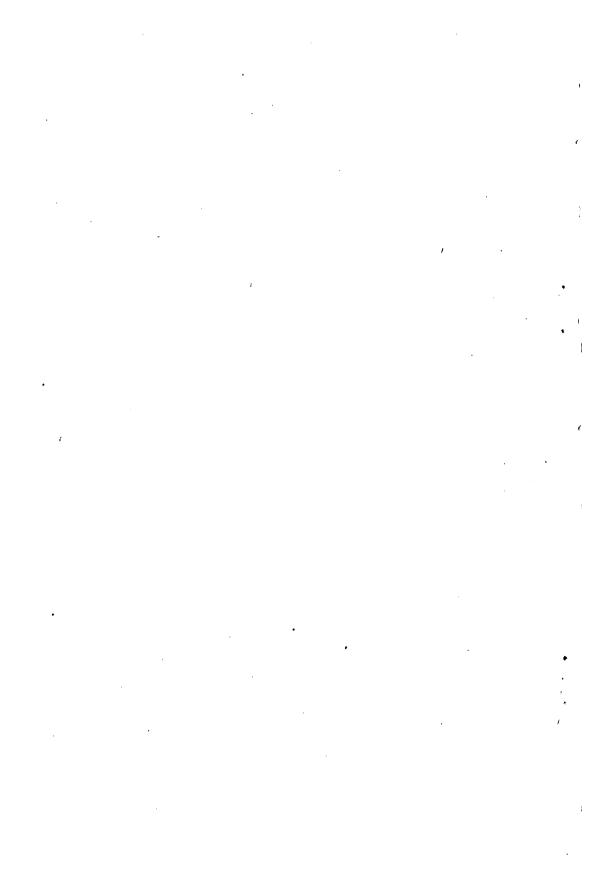
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STABILIZING PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Wednesday, March 8, 1922.

The committee met at 10.15 o'clock a. m., Hon, Gilbert N. Haugen (chairman) presiding.

Present: Messrs, Haugen, Voigt, McLaughlin (Nebraska), Riddick, Tincher, Williams, Sinclair, Thompson, Gernerd, Clague, Clarke, Aswell, Kincheloe, Jones, Ten Eyck.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee have met to-day to give further consideration to the matter of stabilization of farm products.

We will hear from Mrs. Radick this morning.

Mr. Clague, Mr. Chairman, this is Mrs. Radick, from Minnesota, and from my district.

STATEMENT OF MRS. NELS P. RADICK, FULDA, MINN.

Mr. CLAGUE. Won't you sit down, Mrs. Radick?

Mrs. RADICK. We farmers are so used to being on our feet that we feel more natural, so I always prefer to stand.

I am going to put before you the feeling of the farm women of the West toward the stabilization bill.

Mr. Clarke. Are you representing any organization?

Mrs. RADICK. I am representing the United Society of Agriculture, and the farm women of the Northwest, having been organized for some years into local organizations of their own.

Mr. Aswell. How many members have you in that farm organization? Mrs. RADICK. I do not know-I could not tell you definitely. I have forgot-

ten the figures of the last convention.

Mr. CLARKE. Where are your headquarters?

Mrs. RADICK. Of our women's organization? Mr. CLARKE. Yes.

Mrs. Radick. Each State, you understand, has its own State organization.

Mr. Aswell. It is not a national organization?

Mrs. RADICK. We have one.

Mr. ASWELL. Where are your headquarters? Mrs. RADICK. Wherever our officers happen to live.

Mr. Aswell. Where do you live?

Mrs. Radick. Fulda, Minn. Our secretary is in the State of Wisconsin.

We feel that we are just asking to be assured that for the work that the farm women of the country are asked to do upon the farms, in order to get a maximum production, that we be assured that we are going to get at least a living. We feel that the bill on stabilization of the value and prices of farm products is what we want, the legislation we want to carry out that idea.

The work of the farm, if you know enough about farming to understand it, makes it necessary that the wife and the family of the farmer cooperate, not only in the disbursing of what the head of the family brings to the home, but also in the creation of that finance.

You understand that agriculture, at least it appears so to us and to all thinking people, is the foundation of all commercial and industrial activities. Statistics prove it furnishes one-third of all the national wealth, the annual wealth in the raw.

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It furnishes the livelihood of 49 per cent of the people. Now, you understand that does not mean actual workers on the farm; it means people engaged in converting the raw material from the farm to other channels, like cheese makers, etc., handling raw material into other channels.

Mr. CLARKE. Forty-nine per cent?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes.

Mr. CLARKE. Of our population?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes; and it is responsible for the livelihood of the other 51 per cent. You understand that the livelihood comes from the land, not alone through agriculture, but other industries that dig the wealth out of the ground, and the prosperity of the country can not exceed what we get out of the ground.

I saw an article in the paper which said that Postmaster General Hays had gone into the movies to stabilize the Nation. We feel that the stabilization of

farm homes would be the most effective way.

Mr. Aswell. We were told the other day that this bill was unconstitutional.

Mrs. Radick. Have you not heard that criticism of a good many bills?

Mr. TINCHER. What bill is the lady speaking on? Mrs. Radick. The Sinclair bill. Mr. Aswell. That is fixing a guaranteed price?

Mrs. Radick. Based on the cost of production plus a reasonable profit.

Mr. TINCHER. You would not be for the Sinclair bill in its present form, would you, the prices fixed in the Sinclair bill for wheat, if they are below the market price of wheat? You would be in favor of raising the price of wheat?

Mrs. Radick. We are asking for cost of production plus a profit. That is not

Mr. CLARKE. What is the cost is one thing. A good farmer may raise a crop of wheat at a lower price, and cultivate his crop intelligently, and maybe nature will favor him.

Mrs. RADICK. You understand that those elements that enter into cost of production you can get them within a certain per cent, and they will apply to all conditions. If we have a poor farmer and it costs him \$1.50 to produce a bushel of oats, and another farmer can do it for 72 cents, which is the price. it costs some of us, there is a happy medium.

Mr. Clarke. Is that the average in your State? Mrs. Radick. Yes, sir; and when we were taking out grain into the elevators, at the time of threshing, when the farmers had to have the money, we got 17 cents a bushel for oats, and it cost us 72.

Mr. Gernerd. You mean for corn. Mrs. Radick. For oats. That is a very conservative figuring in our part of the country, and corn was selling for 22 cents a bushel, but when I left home the price had advanced a little more.

Mr. GERNERD. What is corn bringing now?

Mrs. Radick. Forty-four cents.

Mr. TINCHER. I could not produce corn for less than \$1 per bushel in my State. I might produce wheat at a little less price than what you would in your section some years. Take this year, for instance, in one part of my district the wheat is all right because we have had snow, and in another part it is dried out and a man might have 500 acres and he might only harvest two or three hundred.

Mrs. Radick. You mean due to the ravages of the elements. We are at the mercy of the elements. There is not a thing raised that there is not a pest for it. We have to study to bring our crops into a marketable condition, and we feel after we have done that and we have held our end of the line just as well as we could and produced it as well as we could, we should be guaranteed what it cost us plus a reasonable profit in order to have a little finance to carry on our work.

Mr. Gernerd. Let me ask you this: In order to establish this basic principle of a minimum price would you create zoning sections of the country in order to bring them within the climatic conditions favorable to crops—particular crops?

Mrs. Radick. Well, I would ask you gentlemen to realize that I have not specifically laid out plans how it can be done. That would be worked out by your committee.

Mr. GERNERD. We are trying to get your viewpoint.

Mrs. RADICK. I think it would be practical. Mr. Gernerd. You are from Minnesota?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes.

Mr. Gernerd. The conditions there are more favorable for the growing of wheat than in my own State, which is Pennsylvania, and the cost of production per acre by reason of increased yield and natural climatic conditions and soil conditions would make it so you could sell your wheat much cheaper than the Pennsylvania farmer can who has got to do it very intensively.

Mrs. Radick. Wheat, as a rule, is not a staple product of the East.

Mr. Gernerd. If we grow any crops we have to rotate with wheat.

Mrs. Radick. Exactly.

Mr. Aswell. Are you a farmer?

Mrs. Radick. All my life except the years I was away at school preparing to be a rural-school teacher.

Mr. Aswell. Do you live on a farm?

Mrs. Radick. Yes, sir; we could not see where we could get the money. and I went into the field and handled rye and oats, cultivated corn and cut corn in the fall, because I wanted whatever return we could get above the actual expenses, and I wanted to give my children a chance to be in school. I have a daughter, 18, in the graduating class this year, and I have a boy in school, and I wanted to make a real teacher of my daughter, and she said, "I am not going to stay on a farm. I want to get to working in some line where I can get something, a new dress or something, or any little thing that I might want That is the condition of the youth on the farm to-day. That is the We talk about the beauty of farm life and how wonderful it is to to get." feeling. live on a farm, but the conditions on the farm to-day are not such as to make the youth want to live there.

Talk about your congested conditions in the cities. I went through the Jewish quarter of New York, and the Italian quarter, and I have seen boys and girls on the farm in my section of the country who were worse off than they are, just because the money was not there, and the parents, who realize the value of education, are denying the children that because of conditions, and a lot of the children have to stay out of school a great part of the time in order to work, because the money is not there. Why should not we be guaranteed the cost of production?

Mr. Aswell. If you guarantee the cost of production, plus a reasonable profit, who is going to pay the guarantee?

Mrs. Radick. I did not get that.

Mr. Aswell. If you do not have enough money from the production to pay the cost of production plus a profit, and you are short on that, who is going to pay the difference, the Government?

Mrs. RADICK. The economic distribution of marketing should be so arranged

that it will bring that about, and we could do that.

Mr. Sinclair. The consumer would pay it?

Mrs. Radick. Yes; and it would not mean higher prices for the consumer.

You could guarantee the farmer the cost of production for everything, and if the system of distribution and marketing were perfected the consumer would not have to pay as much as now.

Mr. RIDDICK. I am a farmer myself. I would like to have your judgment as to this: Sometimes the price of wheat and corn is higher and sometimes lower. Is it not true that when you buy cornmeal and other corn products, the price stays about the same, regardless of the ups and downs of the wholesale market?

Mrs. Radick. When we were getting 17 cents for our oats, we buy those things, we pay that much for a 2-pound 8-ounce carton of rolled oats, and the same for cornflakes.

Mr. Riddick. You were paying the same price?

Mrs. RADICK. It did not make any appreciable difference in the cost of manu-

Mr. Riddick. Where do you think that extra profit goes—where does that extra profit go?

Mrs. Radick. It goes to the manipulators between the producer and the con-

Mr. Aswell. How does Congress get after him? I am with you on that.

Mr. Gernerd. I am intensely interested in that myself. Right there is the dilemma of the whole situation.

Mrs. Radick. Isn't that a pretty good question to ask me to answer?

Mr. Gernerd. You are interested? Mrs. Radick. There is a limit to human possibilities. Probably if I were in your position and had time to devote to the study of those problems, and did not have to bend every effort to physical labor, I could work it out. There is no doubt about it.

Mr. CLARKE. Don't be under the misapprehension that we do not have to work down here.

Mrs. Radick. We are not objecting to hard work. We are not objecting to putting our children to work; it is one of the saving graces of the farm to teach boys and girls the value of work and responsibility, and you have the chance to show them that it is not the question of what can I get, but what can I give, but when our boys and girls do that farm work we think we have a right to expect that we should get a reasonable return.

How many Congressmen would come back to Congress on the mere chance of getting their salary; would you come back the second year if you did not get your salary for the first, if you were just coming back on the mere chance of getting it?

When I look at that pretty picture up there [indicating] of the cattle ready for market, how would you feel? Would you not feel as we did? We had two carloads of cattle ready, just as fine as those in that picture that you see there. We took them to Chicago and lost \$1,700 on two carloads of cattle. Our neighbors in the same position had a little more cattle than we did, and they lost \$2,000.

Mr. Gernerd. I lost \$6,600 last year and \$5,800 this year.

Mrs. Radick. Yes; but you work at something else, you do not work on the farm. You make your money somewhere else and spend the money on the farm. Mr. Aswell. You lost that largely on high-freight rates?

Mrs. Radick. That entered into it, and we lost it on the difference in price from the time we bought the cattle, and when we sold it, the difference between what we bought it for and the price it went to when we sold it.

Mr. TEN EYCK. Were you fattening the cattle?

Mrs. Radick. Yes, sir.

Mr. Tincher. A peculiar thing about that is that the man who bought them as calves and fattened them, he lost money. There is no question about the bad condition of agriculture. It is the most demoralized condition that it has been in at any time in the history of the country. How can we help that condition?

Mrs. Radick. I am glad that the people are enlightened to the condition. We feel that that at least is a step in the right direction in the support of this bill and whatever the bill carries with it, and how the provisions can be worked out.

Mr. Tincher. Heretofore Congress fixed a minimum price for grain, and it was never intended by Congress that that should be intended for anything but a minimum price, and it was so specified in the law. However, that operated as a maximum price.

Mrs. Radick. You mean at the time of the war?

Mr. TINCHER. During the war.

Mrs. Radick. The grain corporation fixed the price on wheat.

Mr. Tincher. I was not on this committee and was not in Congress, and was one of the severe critics, and my experience has been that no Member of Congress ever intended for a moment when they fixed a minimum price for wheat that it would act as the maximum price, but in fixing the minimum price they did establish a maximum price.

Now, take the bill here, and I know Mr. Sinclair is interested in the welfare of the farmer and has no other object in the introduction of the bill, but to pass it. Now (he will tell you himself) if this bill should become operative as the maximum price he would not vote for it, and it should not be the maximum price, and the trade should not take advantage of it as a maximum price, which seems to be beyond the power of Congress to make them take that view.

Mrs. Radick. We feel if we get cost of production plus a little profit, that is what we are asking for, and if we get that, that is our part.

Mr. Gernerd. What would your percentage of profit be?

Mrs. Radick. I asked some folks back home about that. I said: "What would be fair for us to ask for a profit?" and they said: "If we were to gauge that by what we have been getting, it would not be any per cent. If we gauge it on what we pay on the mortgage it would be 5½ and 6 per cent; if we gauge it on what we pay to the bank, it would be 10 per cent."

Mr. Clarke. Is that 10 per cent interest? What is your interest in Minnesota?

Mr. Clague. Six per cent, but they contract that up to 10 per cent.

Mr. Kincheloe. Do the national banks charge that?

Mr. CLAGUE. Yes.

Mr. Kincheloe. What do you mean by the "contract" rate?

Mr. Clague. The lawful rate. There is no legal rate. I mean the legal rate is 6 per cent, the legal rate, but you can contract for 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

Mr. Kincheloe. As high as 10 per cent, and can they enforce it?

Mr. CLAGUE. Yes.

Mr. Kincheloe. That is usury. Is there any other way that they can get more than 10 per cent?

Mr. Clague. They can get more by calling for interest in advance.

Mr. Kincheloe. Do not banks say, "If we loan you \$6,000, we would like to have you keep on deposit \$2,000"?

Mr. Sinclair. They require you to carry a bank balance of 10 to 15 per cent and take out the interest at the time, and it runs about 8 or 10 months.

Mr. Kinchelge. Isn't that usury in your state?

Mr. SINCLAIR. No; that is not regarded as usury in our State.

Mr. KINCHELOE. I was trying to check up on the other rates that we have.

Mr. TINCHER. A man who has to pay 10 per cent interest to make the crop would have to have a little more money than a man who pays 6 per cent, to get any profit out of it, out West. You eastern boys might well remember that west of the Mississippi River the contract rate of interest is 10 per cent, and if you make a short-time loan, unless you are a good big borrower, you pay 10 per cent for all short-time money.

Mr. Voict. Do the banks in Minnesota, when a farmer borrows a small amount of money for six months, make you sign a note which calls for 10 per cent?

Mr. Clague. In my county it is 8 per cent—I do not know of any bank that charges over 8 per cent. This last year it may be higher, because we paid 7 and 71. I do not think in our county it has been over 8 per cent, but there are banks in the district who have charged as high as 10 per cent, and the farmers could not borrow it, because they did not have the money to loan at that rate.

Mr. Voigt. What are they charging now?

Mr. CLAGUE. Eight and 9 per cent.

Mr. Voigt. They can get money from the Federal reserve for less than 6

Mr. CLAGUE. The Federal reserve is loaning it at Minneapolis for 5 per cent, but you want to understand that the banks are loaned up to the limit, and practically every bank in my section of the country has borrowed to its own limit of borrowing.

Mr. Voict. On that money they have loaned out they are drawing 8 per cent?

Mr. Clague. I expect so. Mrs. Radick. I never like to let people know that we have to borrow money to do our business.

(Informal discussion followed, which the reporter was directed not to incorporate in the record.)

Mr. Riddick. Speaking of Montana, I think that more than 75 per cent of the Montana farmers are borrowing money.

Mrs. Radick. I know in our community the banks are carrying farmer after farmer, because the farmer in the spring of the year made certain improvements, bought a machine that he had to have, on the strength of what his crop would bring him. The deflation in prices brought things down so that he could not get half of what he expected, and the bankers realize it, as they should, and they realize that the farmer is an asset to the country, that it is an asset to the country to have a good farmer, and they are carrying him.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Ascertaining the cost of production—are there not being made in all the agricultural colleges of the various northwestern States at least efforts to determine what the cost of the various crops is at the different stations?

Mrs. Radick. Yes. They are doing that through the universities, and it is not a hard problem.

Mr. Sinclair. Farmers could ascertain what the cost of production is, could

Mrs. Radick. Yes; easily, but that is a local condition.

We are not satisfied with our system of education. We are trying to make farmers by a system of education, that is, a system that fits boys and girls for everything in the world except farming. That is, our present system of education does that. If we had schools to teach us where the boys and girls could be made to appreciate the value of farm work, and then if we could give them

ronsation for that work they do on the farm, if we could give them some

return for their labors upon the farm, it would be a wise step. You understand that the Nation is on an unstable foundation if the farms deteriorate.

Mr. RIDDICK. You painted a horrible life, farm life, comparing it with New York. Is that a temporary or recent situation, or do you think that is the situation on American farm homes for years to come?

Mrs. Radick. It has been leading up to the crisis. Conditions at the present time are very acute.

Mr. GERNERD. That is not quite responsive to his question.

Mr. RIDDICK. I have not felt that farm homes have been in the condition which you indicate, poverty, lack of education, lack of clothing. That is not our ordinary conception of farm life.

Mrs. Radick. I understand it is not.

Mr. Riddick. Is that a new situation that has just recently come upon the public, or is that an exaggerated situation peculiar to Minnesota?

Mrs. Radick. They tell us we have 12 farmers listed for delinquent taxes in our township, and they say our township is among the best. I have in mind now a family of eight children who, in order to get the money required to pay taxes the 1st of March, and to pay the interest, will suffer greatly. They have not had any money to buy shoes and clothing, and the conditions are terrible. I saw children whose shoes were so worn out that they couldn't hardly be called shoes

Mr. Sinclair. I think anyone who consults the Red Cross will find there has been a great deal of aid sent out this winter by the Red Cross into certain homes in the Western States.

Mr. Clarke. They did the same thing in my State.

Mr. Riddick. Is not that an unusual condition that has come over the country in the last two or three years?

Mrs. Radick. It is getting worse. The banks have been able to extend credit, and the men borrowed some money. Owing to the withdrawal of credit, they have not been able to do that. The banks have loaned all they could in many cases to the farmers, as well as to other businesses. I know of one desperate condition where the banks had a lien on everything the tenant produced—the family needed some food, and the father went and butchered a hog to supply his family with meat. That is another hardship we have on the farm. We have to convert our own raw materials into the finished product. It is work, that is all. When the banker found out that the man had killed a hog he went out there and they had a fracus, and the banker slapped the farmer. That is from an eyewitness. And the farmer drew his knife and slashed the banker.

Mr. Riddick. Don't you think the farmers should raise their own living, instead of selling their products at a price way below the cost of production? They should bend their energies to making a living for themselves. It seems paradoxical that there should be hunger on the farm.

Mrs. Radick. The farmers are going to produce their own living, rather than work all year and get nothing. We are going to rest and just raise enough stuff for ourselves, because it is better than raising a great quantity of it and getting nothing for it.

Mr. RIDDICK. If they produce their own living it takes very little cash to take care of the other needs.

Mrs. Radick. There are some sections where we can not raise fuel; we can not raise everything we need. We are dependent upon coal, but we use corncobs, and if you know the pleasure of using corncobs for fuel, you will sympathize with us.

Mr. Ten Eyck. You can not go back to the days of homespun spits of clothes. or home-made shoes, or the old method of sweetening, which is necessary for life, you can not go back to that, and make it out of corn?

Mrs. Radick. It should not be necessary. In the economical life of the Nation it should not be necessary to do that in one section.

You understand that in some sections it is profitable to raise grain, in some sections stock, in some sections potatoes, and so on. It should not be possible, in the economic life of the Nation, that those things were not raised to be made use of at a fair living price; that is, cost of production to the farmer, with a little profit

Mr. Riddick. The farmers can not pay the high union scale of wages for doing things that they can do themselves. I lived 30 miles from my nearest market place in Montana, and it was our experience to go to town twice a year. Twice a year was an event of the year for us, because we had to drive 30 miles to town, and take two or three days in doing it, and do our shopping. It is sur-

prising how little actual cash it took, and if every other farmer would do that instead of rushing to town and buying things that were made at the high union scale of wages, products of the farm that went from the farm and were manufactured and came back to the farm, it would make a great saving.

Mrs. Radick. What do you understand by a living?

Mr. Riddick. I can recall those days as the happiest days I ever enjoyed on this earth.

Mr. Clarke. You are not answering her question.

Mr. Riddick. We did not buy any butter or eggs, or meat products or vegetables. We had a cellar full of stuff, a cellar bigger than a railroad car, and we raised poultry. I have never seen such milk and poultry and other things as we raised.

Mrs. RADICK. We raise all those things, too.

Mr. Riddick. We had an abundance of everything.

Mrs. Radick. You have to have clothing. Mr. Riddick. Yes.

Mrs. Radick. Supposing when you had raised these other things, and had your living, you could not get your surplus to buy your clothing?

Mr. Riddick. It does not take much money to buy sensible clothing. We did not wear white shoes which cost \$18.

Mr. TEN EYCK. We are beyond the age of making the cradle and the frame and the wooden wheel on the wagon. The farmer to-day has got to buy the moving machine, the reaper, the binder, the plow, as it is impossible to make

Mrs. Radick. Yes; that enters into the cost of production. So many people tell us that "When we were on the farm we made money. We paid for our farm.'

Mr. TINCHER. A man ought not to give 2 bushels of corn for a shave.

Mrs. Radick. No. Do you know many farmers that go to a barber shop? I shave my husband many times myself.

Mr. TINCHER. Your husband ought to have a right to go to a barber shop. just the same as any other man, and he ought not to have to give 2 bushels of corn for a shave.

Mr. TEN EYCK. I suppose that the reason they charge the farmer so much at the present time for a shave is because of his long face, due to present-day conditions.

Mr. Jones. What rates of interest do the farmers pay?

Mrs. RADICK. We had that a while ago. Were you not here?

Mr. Jones. No.

Mrs. RADICK. From 8 to 10 per cent.

Mr. Jones. Are the prices they are paying for the farm machinery necessary to use on the farm anything like down to the pre-war price?

Mrs. Radick. No.

Mr. Jones. To any appreciable degree?

Mrs. Radick. No; they have not come down much. Mr. Jones. Last year the International Harvester Co. gave notice to the farmers that they were going to increase the price on farm machinery, and such a complaint was raised that they agreed to leave them at the regular prices, which were the war prices, and I was wondering if they had come down?

Mr. SINCLAIR. A binder in my country costs \$270, and they used to give one two years' time to pay, and now they must pay in cash. They do not give any more credit.

Mr. Aswell. Let us get at this bill. What are we going to do with it?

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. We appreciate the value of agriculture and are in sympathy with the distressing conditions throughout the country.

Mr. Aswell. And we know it exists, and if there is anything to do we are

willing to do it.

Mrs. Radick. Congress guaranteed to finance the railroads-what they must. have in order to carry on their work. They are guaranteeing a subsidy to the financial interests that control our ships or that grabbed our ships. Congress would spend one-tenth of the amount of time that has been applied in working out that plan in working out a plan that would bring about the stabilization of farm products, Congress could evolve a plan that would save the agricultural industry and would put it on its feet. I would like to see agriculture put back on its feet. It never has been on its feet. The only reason why the farmer has been able to keep his head above water is because he has been able to produce at less cost, get credit, and work under that condition of borrowing money and paying back when his crop was ready for market. You could not do that until the last year. Farm women have not realized how dependent we are on legislation, and we have not appreciated how much good we could do in putting our condition and our demands before our Representatives in Congress.

Many times Congress is mislead through misleading reports and statements that come from a community. When reports come in they generally are not an example or a statement of facts. They have been obtained from somebody who had an axe to grind, and, therefore, it does not bring any real statement of facts.

Mr. Tincher. What you said about the Congress guaranteeing railroads an income is a very prevalent statement, and is made quite often. As I understand it, the only time the railroads ever had a guaranted income was after the war started and the Government took over the railroads and operated them during the war, and, then, they were turned back, and there was a provision in the bill turning them back before Congress—as I remember, between the administration and the railroads, the railroads would have a guaranteed income of 5½ or 6 per cent for a six-months' period. That was the transaction between the Government and the railroads in turning them back to the owners—to the original owners. Then, if there has been a ship subsidy voted by Congress, any money voted by Congress out of the Public Treasury to any private concerns, I never heard of it. There has been such a movement advocated—such a proposition advocated.

Mr. Riddick. There has been nothing taking any money out of the Treausry. Mr. Tincher. The Government controls the operation of the railroads through the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Interstate Commerce Commission is supposed to say to the railroads what they can charge as rates, and there is another commissions, known as the Labor Commission, who dictate what they shall pay out in the way of expenditures. Would you be in favor of putting agriculture in this country, the control of agriculture, under a commission of a similar nature to the Interstate Commerce Commission?

Mrs. Radick. If we could work upon inflated values and other conditions that govern the work of the railroads and be, as they are, guaranteed an income.

Mr. TINCHER. As I understand now, I do not know of any law guaranteeing the railroads an income. You say, "work on an inflated value."

Mr. Ten Eyck. I think you were mistaken in relation to the guaranty that the Government made for six months. I believe they guaranteed for a short time the same return as the rental which they had been paying previously.

Mr. Tincher. No. Let me correct the gentleman. Mr. McAdoo, when he took the railroads over, arranged that they would be paid an income based on the pre-war earnings, but when Congress passed a law turning the roads back to the owners there was an arrangement made. Congress had very little to do with it. The bill was held up for months and months, and before the deal was made by which they took them back, there was a six months' guaranty of 5½ per cent, or a maximum of 6 per cent; and as a result of that law there was a considerable amount of money taken out of the Federal Treasury which was paid to the railroads. That was the transaction. If we are going to compare our condition—I am a farmer and every dollar I have is invested in the farm, and while I practiced law before, I hope to go to the farm and live there, but here is the proposition I want to get at. When you compare the farming conditions with the railroad conditions—if we want a commission to regulate us and control us, similar to the Interstate Commerce Commission, whether we want to be regulated until they are—

Mr. Aswell (interrupting). Just on that point. As I understand it, the existing law practically directs the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix the freight rates so that the railroads shall have a fair return on their investment, and that includes watering of stock and everything else; and if you can get a guaranty of that sort, so that you would get a price, meaning a fair return from the property way would be satisfied?

your investment, you would be satisfied?

Mrs. Radick. Yes, sir; that is all we ask—cost of production plus a little profit

Mr. Riddick. There is nothing to prevent the farmer from doing that now. He can ask \$5 a bushel for his wheat, if he can get it. The railroads charge this rate, and they would not make a penny unless someone would pay it.

Mr. Aswell. The Interstate Commerce Commission fixed the rate on the basis of return to the railroad, and people are compelled to use the railroads. They have no choice.

Mr. TINCHER. The law may be subject to the criticism Mr. Aswell is making. I know how powerless the Interstate Commerce Commission is. In that law we tried to avoid watering stock by making the rate—that is having the rate fixed on the physical valuation of the railroad, actual valuation; but I am inclined to agree that in working it out they get in the false valuation, and that illustrates, to my mind, how dangerous it is to industries and the Government to have too many commissions running too many businesses.

Mrs. RADICK. Just let me give you a word of advice: Before you go back to the farm, unless existing conditions are remedied, that you make enough money to live on before you go back, and not depend on what you get from the farm.

Mr. Aswell. He is not going back soon.

Mr. Tincher, I would if I would leave it to Doctor Aswell.

Mr. Aswell. You would start back soon, surely.

Mr. KINCHELOE. You know, there are 21 members of the Agricultural Committee, from almost every section of the United States. I do not think that there are 21 men in the United States who are more in sympathy with agricultural interests of the country than these men. We are in sympathy. I will say, without throwing any bouquets, that I do not think there are 21 men in the United States more familiar with the agricultural conditions than this committee. Now, of course, the condition of agriculture is very bad, not only in your country, but in my country.

Mrs. RADICK. It is universal.

Mr. Kincheloe. It is a great agricultural district.

Mrs. Radick. What district are you from?

Mr. Kincheloe. Kentucky; and it is because of the fact that when this war ended the prices of all the products of agriculture went down, and the things the farmer had to buy did not go down in proportion. There is no doubt about that. Now, then, we have got to take this as a national aspect.

Mrs. Radick. That is all we can ask.

Mr. Kincheloe. Take the South, Mr. Jones's district: It is a cotton district. It is a one-crop country, and if they fail they have nothing else to go on. Take my district, and Mr. Williams's district: We are in a corn belt. I say to you frankly that the farmers in my country at gathering time, when they had the gathering to do, corn was only 25 and 30 cents, and it cost them that to gather it. The tobacco in my State is a money crop. The poor tenant, if he does not get a reamnable price for tobacco, suffers for the necessaries of life. Take the national aspect of the whole thing, every part of the country, what could this Congress do that it has not already done? For instance, we have extended the life of the War Finance Corporation. The farm-loan banks have done some good. They have done a good deal. If you are going to fix a minimum price upon the various products of agriculture, I think you will agree with me, if you are going to fix it, you ought to fix it on everything the farmer raises. People lose in raising cattle and tobacco and corn. You can't lose in raising wheat only, and in another section of the country they raise cotton, but you can not only take that into consideration-cotton, rice, and all of those things. Could this committee, and could Congress, go and pass on a proposition of guaranteeing a minimum price for every character of product—if you are going to be just to the whole agricultural interests I think we ought to do that.

Mrs. RADICK. I think the bill mentions the staple farm products.

Mr. Kincheloe. It does not mention much corn in my country.

Mr. Sinclair. It mentions corn and cotton.

Mr. Kincheloe. There is very little more raised in our country.

Mr. Aswell. They have cotton at 18 cents.

Mr. Kincheloe. I say to you, I have given this considerable study, and I am perplexed about the proposition. I was born and raised on a farm. When I graduated, I did not have car fare to pay my way back home. Nobody realizes the terrible conditions in the country. If we can show something that will be of general interest to the agricultural interests of the whole, why, of course, I think every man here will be in sympathy. I am trying to get information.

Mrs. Radick. Do you understand that the working of the War Finance Cor-

poration accomplished what it was hoped to accomplish?

Mr. CLARKE. That is water over the dam.

Mr. Kincheloe. They are doing work now.

Mr. TEN EYCK. What do you think?

Mrs. RADICK. I do not think it does, for this reason: That one provision of that law is in order to be able to borrow money through this source a farmer must have liquid assets in proportion to the amount that he wants to borrow. It did not make any difference to us if we had a half section paid for, if we did not have stock on that in porportion to the amount we wanted to borrow.

Mr. Ten Eyck. That is correct.

Mr. Aswell. If you had the farm paid for, you could borrow money from the farm loan banks.

Mrs. Radick. You can not borrow money individually.

Mr. Sinclars. You have to have a farm loan association. Mrs. Radick. Yes. Mr. Riddick. You may get your loan year after next.

Mr. Jones. Do you expect the Government, through the War Finance Corporation, to buy the surplus farm products at a fixed price?

Mrs. RADICK. I think that is what the bill calls for.

Mr. Jones. Are you in favor of that plan?

Mrs. RADICK. I think it might be done temporarily.

Mr. Jones. You, of course, would have a purpose in that, of increasing the price of the farm products. You would have to increase the price of farm products.

Mrs. Radick. We had hoped to get cost of production plus a reasonable

profit.

Mr. Jones. How would you take care of the tendency which would likely arise for farm products to come from foreign countries, in the event you stabilize farm products above the world market? Would not that tend to make the farm products from surrounding countries and adjacent countries seek a market here rather than in their own country?

Mrs. RADICK. Would not that come under the Republican slogan of the high

tariff?

Mr. Jones. If you put the tariff high enough, perhaps you could keep out the products, but that would probably destroy the foreign markets for all of our products in doing that.

Mrs. RADICK. Tend to destroy the export products?

Mr. Jones. For any surplus the Govenrment might want to sell, or the farmer might want to sell. I am asking these questions, not for the purpose of confusing you, but they are problems you have to take into consideration, and we have got to get a practical proposition, and we do not help anything by considering an impracticable proposition, and we do not favor the farmer by consideration of a measure without taking into account all the angles.

Mrs. RADICK. It is the relationship to other industries.

Mr. Jones. And I am asking to get your ideas on these different subjects.

Mr. Sinclars. You recognize that all business interests the farmers deal with are highly organized, much more than 10 or 20 years ago. The business that absorbs the farm products is now narrowing into fewer and fewer hands, and it is all controlled, and easily controlled, by a few men. He sells and produces in small quantities. In other words, the factory of the farmer is a little factory and there are innumerable of them. He is at a disadvantage when 10,000 farmers sell one article to one business organization buying it.

Mrs. RADICK. Yes.

Mr. Jones. That is the problem. I am trying to seek some practical way to bring the price of agricultural products, or cause them to be brought, to the point where they will sell for at least a little more than actual cost of production. Of course, we can not afford to take any plan that would cause this country to stabilize the farm products for the whole world. We could not afford financially to do that. If we adopt some plan which will lift the price of farm products above the world market, it will necessitate an embargo of some sort, or an arrangement to keep the products from other countries from coming in and getting the advantage of this, and we must do that or make it in the form of a subsidy or in the form of Government insurance. In other words, we would be put to this proposition: We must depend upon our export markets for a great many of our products. We produce more than we consume. There is not a market here for all of it; that is, for a number of our farm products. Take wheat. We export much more wheat than we import, so we must have our outside market or everything will go to crash.

If we lift these prices above the world market and then build a wall so that products can not come from other countries into this country, it is likely to cause retaliation on their part and destroy our markets for surplus production. We have developed, in other words, in this country, to a point where in most of the staple products of this country, farm products, we export more than

we import, and we have grown into an exporting nation, so far as farm products are concerned, and in order to have a market for them at all we must dispose of that surplus to foreign markets.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I do not think you are fully justified in that.

The Secretary of Agriculture was here a few days ago and he said that in a very short time the problem of this country would be to increase production in order to take care of the wants of our own people. That is the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. Jones. That may come in the future, but his own figures and the figures of the different departments here show that for the present and for the past few years we have been exporting practically all staple products more than we have imported.

The CHAIRMAN. Farm products have made up about half of our exports.

Mr. CLARKE. Do you not think that the prices of products in other countries will have some influence; do you not think that Canadian wheat has affected

the price of our wheat?

Mrs. Radick. Well, frankly, I do not know; but if we provide our economic conditions—and by economics I understand it means the arrangement and the disposition of the affairs of a nation to provide that they shall come up to a certain standard—the consumption of the products of the farms in our own Nation would be far greater than they are if the people could afford to buy what they need in the way of staple products and food.

Mr. Jones. In order to make my statement complete I want to make this further suggestion. I am very much in favor of a practical plan that would stabilize farm products. I am in favor of such a measure. But I am trying to get some one before the committee to suggest a plan that will really accomplish what we all would like to see accomplished. My people are wholly agricultural. The largest town in the district I represent is a town of 20,000 people. There is no other town in the district with more than five or six thousand. So you can see that I am very much interested in agriculture and that I represent an agricultural country, and that the people that I represent are interested in agriculture; but the prices of our wheat are gauged on the London and the world market because we export a great deal of wheat from that portion of the coun try. We are absolutely compelled to depend upon the world market to dispose of our surplus wheat, because we do grow a surplus, and I think we will continue to grow a surplus for many years to come.

Mrs. RADICK. With wheat I do not know about that. The acreage is being reduced right along.

Mr. Jones. Yes.

Mrs. Radick. You understand that you can not crop a piece of land in wheat continually, because it will not continue to produce.

Mr. Jones. That is very true, but it will produce—in a real wheat country—it will produce for a great many years, and then you can alternate with the other crops for one year and to a large extent bring it back.

Mrs. Radick. That will not bring it back.

Mr. Jones. I know that that is true in my country, which is quite a wheat country. I know that you can not continue to grow wheat on the same land year after year, because it will use up the elements which constitute the richness of the soil. But I know that there have been two or three plans suggested. One is a subsidy. Another is a system of Government guaranties of the cost, so that the farmers will get at least what it cost them to make their crops. Those principles, however, have not been seriously advocated before the committee.

The plan advocated is for your discussion now, and I was just trying to picture conditions as they would be if we actually put a stabilization plan into effect and undertook to raise the prices of these products above the world market;

then what are we going to do with the surplus we have on hand?

Mrs. Radick. This bill does not specify this suggestion that I am about to make. It is one which has arisen within our own association, but why would not the plan of operating our cooperative elevators that we have throughout the country under a plan of Government supervision; that is, we could take our grain to those elevators, because you know that no farmer has the facilities for keeping his own products right on the farm, and they could be put there.

Then, again, farmers could handle their wheat that way and they would not

be handling it year after year at a loss.

Then, we suggest that these elevators be Government supervised. We could take our grain there and be allowed to either borrow money or be given outright a certain percentage of the value of that grain.

Mr. TEN EYCK. In other words, what you want is cooperative bargaining for selling with community elevators controlled by the Government so that you can place your grain there and hold it, and borrow upon it. Is that about it?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes, sir.

Mr. Clarke. Now, you have made a suggestion in which we are vitally interested, which I believe is a practical suggestion.

Mr. SINCLAIR. That is, the the Government handle the grain-must it be grain?

Mrs. Radick. I was coming to that.

The CHAIRMAN. We now have licensed warehouses issuing receipts.

Mrs. RADICK. That is going to help to solve it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. That means that the Government, under your suggestion. would stand back of the business and assume the risk and pay any losses that might occur, and exercise general control over the several warehouses or elevators?

Mr. Sinclair. No.

Mr. WILLIAMS. That is what her idea is.

Mrs. RADICK. Of course, the elevators, or the managers would be, so to speak. under Governmental supervision. We would have to come up to certain specifications and certain limitations, in order to get even that.

Mr. Williams. Government supervision, however, without Government responsibility and liability would not mean very much, would it?

Mrs. Radick. No; but that is what we would expect that they would do that.

Mr. TEN EYCK. Your idea is that the wheat in these elevators, the elevators being under Government supervision, you could borrow upon that from the banks, as collateral, and that the banks would finance you, and that the laws governing the banking policy of the country would permit all banks to take it as collateral, and it would be discountable into the reserve banks and to the other regional banks, so that you could obtain the money from the banks in the rural district; that is your idea?
Mrs. Radick. I think so.

Mr. Sinclair. It would also permit the orderly marketing of grain?

Mrs. Radick. Yes, sir.

Mr. Sinclair. It would keep all of the grain from being thrown on the market It would at least provide a method for orderly marketing of the grain.

Mr. Jones. Do you think that a plan worked out along that line would be very

practicable?

Mr. Kincheloe. That plan has been practically worked out in the burley section of my State; in Kentucky they are getting money now from the War Finance Corporation. That has resulted in practically doubling the price that they are getting for their tobacco. In fact, it has resulted in increasing the price from 11½ cents a pound up to 25 cents.

Mrs. RADICK. You have just started this year, but it has enabled you to

borrow several million dollars from the War Finance Corporation?

Mr. CLARKE. That is true of every organization that controls-not controls,

but through cooperation disposes of its produce.

Mr. TEN EYCK. And the best thing about cooperative organization or handling it through an association is that it is not costing the consumer any more, but that the producer is getting more for his products. They have practically doubled the amount that they have been able to get on their tobacco heretofore.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you contend that the Government should build elevators.

or just supervise them?

Mrs. Radick. Well, if it should be necessary to build elevators and-

The CHAIRMAN (interposing). I mean, do you think that the Government should supervise the elevators or build them?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes, sir. The management could be under civil service if that would be necessary.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I would be against them being under civil service.

The CHAIRMAN. I desire to call your attention to an act that was passed with regard to the elevators—a Federal law—the warehouses that meet the requirements of the Department of Agriculture are authorized to issue negotiable receipts. That was provided for in an act that was passed several years ago.

Mrs. Radick. Yes; but how would that help out?

The CHAIRMAN. It will help to this extent, that you can store your grain in these elevators, and they are supposed to give a guaranty of some value, that

there is something back of it, something that represents real value. A receipt issued by an elevator which has given proper bonds and securities for the delivery of the grain. That makes the receipt more valuable; the terminal elevator receipts are now considered good security and the banks advance money on them.

Mrs. Radick. You know, we do not feel that there is any need for these large terminal elevators and we think that they are unnecessary provided the local elevators are properly equipped. If the local elevators are properly managed they will help.

The CHAIRMAN. If the local storing facilities were adequate, you think that the terminal elevators would not be necessary; or do you think that we should build more elevators.

Has this matter been discussed quite generally throughout your section of the country?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. Are you all practically agreed upon the proposition?

Mrs. RADICK. I think that the bona fide farmers are.

The CHAIRMAN. In your discussion, what has been the suggestion as to the price for corn. Could you give us for the record some suggestion as to what the price of corn should be in your section; a minimum price or a maximum price?

Mrs. Radick. I should consider that 72 cents a bushel would cover the cost of production. We were asked as to the cost of production, and it cost us 72 cents a bushel to produce the corn. Of course, that would not leave any profit.

The CHARMAN. You are practically agreed, then, that a price fixed should be about 72 cents a bushel?

Mrs. Radick. That is just the cost of production. That does not give us anything above the cost of production.

The Chairman. Then, what would you suggest as to the price. We have been giving consideration as to what the price should be. Some have suggested, for instance, for wheat. \$1.25; others have suggested that it be more, and others less.

As to corn, they have suggested that about half would be the right price.

Can you give us any suggestions?

Mrs. Radick. I do not know that I would be safe in saying.

The CHAIRMAN. What would you suggest as to the price at Chicago?

Mrs. Radick. I do not know that I would be safe in giving you that as to Chicago.

Mr. Sinclair. Now, in connection with that question, we would want to understand just what area that would cover. I believe that 85 cents has been suggested as for Chicago for No. 2 yellow corn.

The CHAIRMAN. If Mrs. Radick has any suggestion as to prices, I would like to have it for the record. Have you given it any thought, and do you have any figures in mind?

Mr. Ten Eyck. Mr. Chairman, I might say, in relation to this question, that there are numerous things to be taken into consideration in connection with the price of the corn which would have a great bearing, and it would be necessary for her to include in here her costs of those different things. It is a pretty hard question for the lady to answer, unless she is thoroughly familiar with all that has to be included in the cost prices given.

Mr. Clarke. I think that she is able to give us an estimate on these things. She is a practical farmer.

Mrs. Radick. We have worked out our costs of production. We did that as individuals, but those are the general costs throughout that country. Some of those farmers produce some oats and a great deal of corn. We think that that is a very conservative figure. But we did not allow anything for fertilizer, which should be considered, and also for the price of the seed, because we wanted to be as near correct as we could, and we did not remember what oats were selling for, or what corn sold for for seed over ordinary corn. Those are important matters that should be taken into consideration.

The Chairman. Did you include any wages for the farm woman?

Mrs. Radick. No. no; the farmer's wife works for nothing.

The CHAIRMAN. You have no suggestions to make as to prices—have you any suggestions as to the prices that should be fixed?

Mrs. Radick. I would not think that this price mentioned in the bill is exorbitant, and I think that we would—

The CHAIRMAN (interposing). For the record, will you kindly give that price?

Mrs. Radick. It is 85 cents for No. 2 yellow. That is estated at Chicago. Then you understand that we would have certain transportation charges.

Mr. Sinclair. What is the freight rate from your point to Chicago?

Mrs. Radick. I can not tell you just what it is to Chicago, but I know that we shipped a carload of corn through our exchange to eastern Wisconsin, and I think that it was 17 cents a bushel.

Mr. KINCHELOE. You raise yellow corn; you prefer yellow corn to the white corn?

Mrs. Radick. I think so.

Mr. Kincheloe. We prefer the white corn in Kentucky.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The yellow corn is preferable for feeding purposes.

Mr. Kincheloe. We prefer the white.

Mrs. Radick. Why do you prefer it; because it has larger ears or larger kernels; is that the reason?

Mr. Kincheloe. It is adapted to more different uses.

Mr. Sinclair. They can make hominy out of it.

Mr. Kincheloe. We prefer the white corn for corn meal. We prefer it to the yellow corn.

Mrs. Radick. We like the yellow corn meal. When we buy corn meal we want it made from yellow corn.

Mr. CLARKE. That is the right kind. That has more vitamines in it.

Mrs. RADICK. That and other elements.

The CHAIRMAN. Just in that connection, you believe that the farmers will be generally affected through this proposition; and you think that the farmers are for it?

Mrs. Radick. I think that the farmers and their wives will be in favor of it. The Chairman. In that connection, I would like to say that the representatives of one of the large organizations here appeared before this committee the other day and suggested that this was not the proper procedure. There seems to be a divided sentiment among the people affected by this legislation as to what to do in the matter.

Mrs. Radick. Am I out of order if I ask what organization that was?

The CHAIRMAN. That was Mr. Silver, representing the Farm Bureau Federation. He testified before the committee the other day and suggested that this would not be the proper thing to do.

Mrs. RADICK. We are not members of the Farm Bureau Federation. Our organization admits no one—

The CHAIRMAN (interposing). Evidently they hold a different opinion.

Mrs. Radick. As I was telling you a while ago, reports come to Congress that can not always be depended upon as expressing the real sentiment of the farmers. I do not for a moment intend to argue that I am the only honest person that is appearing before a committee of Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. It is not a question of integrity at all. I am simply trying to get the different views on this bill.

Mrs. RADICK. I understand.

The CHAIRMAN. But in your section of the country, they are quite generally in favor of your suggestions?

Mrs. RADICK. Yes, I think so.

The CHAIRMAN. You spoke about legislation, the legislation that has been enacted. Has that been of any benefit to the farmers? You are aware of the fact that Congress has enacted more laws affecting agriculture during the last two and one-half years than it has ever enacted in any 10-year period before? You are aware of the fact that it has passed a number of laws?

Mrs. Radick. Well, I have an opinion as to that. How have they affected the farmers, and what benefit have they been and how—you mean the War Finance Corporation?

The CHAIRMAN. That is one of them. The farm loan act and a number of others—the emergency tariff act; the grain exchange; regulations, packer legislation; the meat inspection act; amendment to the pure foods and drug act—there is a long list; the repeal of the infamous daylight-saving act.

Mr. CLAGUE. And we have also passed the prohibition act.

The CHAIRMAN. And the agricultural appropriation act carried the rent for the District of Columbia, known as the Ball Act.

Mr. Ten Eyck. Did that affect farmers' homes; were they taken care of under that bill?

Mrs. Rapick. Still, with all of this legislation that has been enacted by Congress, in spite of that, we have the conditions that I have been trying to tell you of, and all of those conditions still exist; do they not? Does that not prove that they have not been of very much benefit to agriculture as a whole?

Mr. CLARKE. We have not had time to test those acts yet. I think that conditions are improving. You are getting better prices for your produce.

Mrs. RADICK. Yes; the prices have now advanced, but the grain is out of the farmers' hands. Of course, it does not help them because it is out of their

hands, practically.

Mr. Clarke. Well, this condition has been stretched out over a great many years. I can go back 32 years, I remember, when my grandfather used to ship his butter—I was reared on a farm—he would send his butter to the commission merchants in New York. Now, he always endeavored to get a check; he was at the hands of the commission merchants for everything that he sold, and he had to take what he could get, and he was always thankful if he got back enough to pay the hired man and pay his taxes and enough to send one of the children, at least, away to school for one term. Those were the conditions that obtained at that time.

Mrs. Radick. Can this Nation really be the nation that we want it to be if those conditions continue to exist?

Mr. Clarke. Those were the conditions as they obtained for 30 years before

Mrs. Radick. And can you picture the situation of the mother in the farm home that realizes the benefit of an education to her children, that has a standard of living that she would like to maintain for her family and then feel that it does not make any difference how hard she works-I told you of the work that I did last summer. I do not object to doing the work, but I would like to know that what I am helping to produce, that when it is ready for the market, that we are going to get what it costs to produce it and have a little more, maybe, to get something that is so dear to the heart of a woman—a new odress, a new hat, or be able to keep the children in school. We are willing to sacrifice when it is necessary, but we want to know that it is actually nec-

You know that it makes me smile when the university extension department sends out from their home-economics department to the farm woman, suggestions telling them of the value of labor-saving machinery on the farm and in the farm home. I tell them that if they will give us the money to buy them, that we will find a use for them.

Mr. TEN EYCK. The chairman asked you a moment ago what benefit the farmers had derived from the emergency tariff legislation that has been recently enacted? Will you answer him?

Mr. CLARKE. May I ask a question—

Mr. TEN EYCK. Just wait a minute. Do not break up the continuity here, Mr. Clarke. I want to ask the witness if she will answer the question that was asked by the chairman.

Mrs. RADICK. Have I not answered it?

Mr. TEN EYCK. You have not given a direct answer to the question, and I would like to have you answer it.

Mr. CLARKE. He and I are neighbors, but we disagree on the tariff.

Mr. TEN EYCK. I am not disagreeing with anybody.

Mrs. Radick. And you want to make me the goat?

Mr. TEN EYCK. No; I do not want to make anyone the goat.

Mr. Clarke. That shows you how some of these Congressmen will try to put you in a hole.

Mr. TEN EYCK. No; I am not trying to make you or anyone else the goat, and I believe that you are one of the most intelligent and best-informed women that has come before us to testify.

The CHAIRMAN. You may proceed with your statement, and we will not

interrupt you. You may proceed with your statement.

Mrs. Radick. Well, I just want to impress you men, if I can, with what it means to a mother to have to face such conditions, and if she must help her husband, she wants to know that he will receive the reward, and that they will receive a price that will at least give them what it costs them to produce the crops on the farm. She wants to understand what the conditions are going to be. And I want to say that on the whole the farmers' wives have been placed. I think, that the farmers as a whole have been placed. We have not realized the need for legislation. We have not really understood where to come for relief, but we are learning, and we are learning that the men and the women that we elect as our representatives are the men and the women we can look to for relief. And we are not selfish. I want you to understand that we are not asking for anything that we are not willing to guarantee to other industries, and that we are not willing that they should be.

And, further than that, it is the question of what benefits agriculture benefits the Nation as a whole. Agriculture is the foundation. This, I think, applies to the women as a whole. I know that it applies to the farm women. We are going to take as our slogan, "Men, women, and measures."

Mr. Clarke. "Men, women, and measures?"

Mrs. RADICK. "Men, women, and measures."

Mr. TEN EYCK. In other words, you are going to measure those that you do not think measure up to your requirements?

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Mrs. RADICK. We are going to ask them to work. We are going to measure them by the work that they do.

Mr. CLARKE. You are going to use the yard stick on those that do not measure up to your expectation?

Mr. SINCLAIR. You intend to go to the polls? Do the women in your country go and vote?

Mrs. RADICK. Well, they have been voting in the local elections and they will continue to vote when there is an issue at stake.

Mr. RIDDICK. Are you going to vote for Judge

Mrs. RADICK. If he continues as he has commenced, we will vote for him

Mr. KINCHELOE. There seems to be, as the chairman said, difference of opinion among the representatives of the farmers' organization on the question of price-fixing activities. As he said, Mr. Silver, who is the head of the farm bureau here, appeared before the committee and he has a general idea about it. He is honest in his opinion, of course, and I am satisfied that you are. So, if you, as representatives of the various farm organizations coming before us differ in your opinions about these matters, why, it sort of makes it difficult for use because we try to consider both sides.

Mrs. RADICK. We want you to; we want you to consider both sides. We want you to take into consideration the national situation and we will trust your judgment. And when those elements enter into legislation that you enact, I think, that we are going to be safe and satisfied.

Mr. WILLIAMS. You appreciate the position that the individual members of this committee occupy when the representatives of the largest farm organizations in the country come before this committee and disagree with these principles.

Mrs. RADICK. Did Mr. Silver have any other plan to suggest to you?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, he only appeared for a minute and made a passing suggestion; but while he was here on another matter, that question was put to him. I think that every member around this table realizes the condition of the farmers and are exceedingly anxious to do anything reasonable and the proper thing for the benefit of the producers in the country. Most of us, at some time or other, have lived on the farm.

Mrs. Radick. But you are not there now actually making your living out of farming?

Mr. Clarke. I am.

Mrs. Radick. But you are not making your living on the farm?

Mr. CLARKE. I am trying to.

Mrs. Radick. So are we.

Mr. CLARKE. We are doing better than you, because we have pooled our milk. Mrs. Radick. Yes.

Mr. Clarke. We have got 63,000 members in our milk pool up there.

Mrs. Radick. Still, your prices fluctuate just the same.

Mr. CLARKE, Pardon me?

Mrs. Radick. You are at the mercy of the market prices just the same.

Mr. CLARKE. No.

Mrs. Radick. Well, you have reached a station a little beyond the rest of us. I remember reading President Harding's suggestion before the agricultural or farm conference, the so-called farm conference, and he said that-

Mr. Ten Eyck (interposing). You say just what you feel like.

Mrs. RADICK. He said that all that we could do is to furnish the machinery for the farmers to work with. I think that he meant in the way of legislation. I presume that is what he meant. Then he said again that it was the work of cooperation, cooperative organizations, and that the cooperative organizations could work out these problems, and that they must be left for the farmers themselves. And we agree with him. We are entirely willing to do the work, provided we are furnished with the machinery, and that machinery is, of course, the machinery which Congress can provide for us.

The CHAIRMAN. You have that machinery. You have cooperative organiza-

tions. You have cooperative associations.

Mrs. Radick. In what respect?

The CHAIRMAN. You have the cooperative associations.

Mrs. RADICK. We have the farmers' cooperative associations, cooperative exchanges. It is in the beginning-

The CHAIRMAN (interposing). Well, that has been provided for. You are not asking for any legislation in that respect?

Mrs. RADICK. No. We have been able to do that ourselves. That is our line

of work. That is our game.

The CHAIRMAN. You have had the right of collective bargaining. This committee reported that bill, and it was enacted during the war, as a war measure, and now it has been made permanent under what is known as the Capper-Volstead Act.

Mrs. Radick. Yes; that has probably removed a little fear, at least.

The CHAIRMAN. There had been a lot of fear expressed about it, and there was foundation for it, but that has been taken care of.

Mrs. Radick. Yes; I understand it. Mr. Clarke. Have you grown very much of a barley crop in Minnesota? Mrs. Radick. No; not so much as they grow up in Wisconsin. We did produce a little barley. I think that if we had had a little barley last year it would have done well. We had a good season for it. But we did not have any.

I am through. I want to thank you very much for your patience. Mr. Gernerd. I would like to ask you one question. I would like to ask you as to the attitude that the people on the farm have taken with regard to the farm legislation that this Congress has enacted.

Mrs. Radick. We feel that you have had a wonderful opportunity.

Mr. Gernerd. As to what way-and I am speaking seriously. I would like to know what you people think.

Mr. Clarke. I think that she has answered you.

Mr. Gernerd, I would like to know just what you think. I want you to be frank. I want to know what your mind is.

Mrs. RADICK. That is my honest opinion.

Mr. GERNERD. I think that we ought to know. I want to find out, regardless of what you think, just what you think has been done.

Mrs. Radick. Yes; we know what has been done.

Mr. Gernerd. Well, now, what is the feeling? I am only trying to find out. Mr. TINCHER. May I inquire what difference it makes? Suppose that they are ungrateful and do not appreciate the laws that we have enacted?

Mr. GERNERD. That would not make any difference. I would like to know really what the frame of mind is in this country, regardless of whether we

agree or not.

Mr. Sinclair. I think that you understand that with the average farmer, like anyone else, they will be inclined to judge with regard to the effect that it has had upon them. If they have not noticed any effect from the law, then, naturally they would not be very strong for that law.

Mr. GERNERD. I would like to know what the feeling is.

Mrs. RADICK. Well, take the legislation that has been enacted for the benefit of the farmers. Has it really benefited the farmers? Take, for instance, the Federal farm loan, and also the War Finance Corporation.

Mr. TEN EYCK. That extends loans to the farmers?

Mr. WILLIAMS. This committee for years tried to enact a law covering those things, and they were requested by the great farm organizations for years, and they had been urging Congress to pass that legislation, seeking to control gambling in farm products, grain exchanges, and putting the packers under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture, and various measures. They had been coming here for years urging those things—the farm organizations had. That is the question. I take it, that Mr. Gernerd was asking here, as to whether or not this legislation that Congress has passed has met with the approval of the farm organizations and the farmers.

Mr. GERNERD. That is what I am after.

Mr. WILLIAMS. We have been trying to put that legislation through, and we have gone further in the last two or three years than in the previous 30 years in putting through a program of farm legislation—through Congress—measures that have been urged by the great farm organizations, and measures that have been praised by the great farm journals as of great value. The farm journals have been speaking very highly of these measures.

Mrs. RADICK. But do you not see, even with that, if the prices we get for our produce are not sufficient to pay for the cost of production, plus a reason-

able profit, we are not helped any, are we?

The CHAIRMAN. Your contention is that you want another gold nugget thrown in, as suggested here the other day. You want legislation passed that will throw in another gold nugget—that will give further relief?

Mrs. RADICK. I want something that will show results, you see.
Mr. CLARKE. I think that within the next year you will find that you are receiving results from the legislation that has gone through. It is a question of catching up. I think that you will see that this legislation has been and is of benefit to the agricultural conditions.

The CHAIRMAN. If you are through, we are very grateful to you, indeed.

Is there anyone that wants to be heard?

(Whereupon the committee proceeded to the consideration of other business.)

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anyone else that desires to be heard?

Mr. TINCHER. Mr. Chairman, before we proceed further with this proposition 1 think that there is some legislation that we ought to decide on-whether we are going to report on it or not. I think that we ought to take a little time between now and noon to consider it. The annual appropriation bill that is being considered before the House carries some items which the chairman of the Appropriat on Committee is very frank to state are legislative items, and it seems to me that they are of sufficient importance that we should give them consideration now. We have those matters pending in a bill before this committee at this time, and I think that we should give them some idea as to what our policy is going to be.

Mr. TEN EYCK. What are they?

Mr. TINCHER. I do not want to trust my memory, but there is a provision making an appropriation for one man in the packer control, giving one man \$6,500. He can not be given \$6,500 now. That is subject to a point of order. Now, that man is receiving \$5,000.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Then they are seeking to change the organic law?

Mr. TEN EYCK. There is a report before us on that.

Mr. TINCHER. Now, this committee has that matter up for consideration. and I think that we ought to give them the benefit of our judgment on the policy as to that.

The CHAIRMAN. We could report the bill and get it on the calendar.

Mr. Sinclair. I suggest, Mr. Tincher, that the clerk go through that and get it in shape so we can have it before us at our next meeting.

Mr. TINCHER. But you see the bill is before the House. I thought that we ought to do something to-day. I thought that was what we were going to do here th's morning. We were going to hear this lady for 15 minutes and then proceed to the consideration of that matter.

Mr. Bush-Brown. If you want to hear me at some other time, I can come at some other time. It will not inconvenience me to come at some other day.

Mr. TINCHER. I think that we ought to take some sort of action on this matter. Mr. CLARKE. I think that we ought to get these matters before the House.

The CHAIRMAN. It is very clear that we can not put anything of that kind through before the action on the agricultural bill, but-

Mr. TINCHER (interposing). But we might possibly get it through before it has passed the Senate.

Mr. WILLIAMS. This provision is in the appropriation bill, and if it passes the Senate the conferees would be justified in agreeing to the Senate amend-

Mr. TINCHER, I do not want the members of the Agricultural Committee to be blamed, and they will be blamed, if Blanton or some one else makes a point of order, because it will have to go out of the appropriation bill. That is a thing that I do not want to happen.

Mr. Kincheloe. I would like to make a statement right there. I do not know who was on the floor yesterday when Mr. Anderson was making his suggestions and explanations of the agriculture appropriations bill, but I interrupted him and asked him some questions about the bill. I noticed that there was an item in there carrying an appropriation of \$50,000 for this year. He stated that, as I understand the condition of his committee, that they understood that perhaps the Weeks bill had expired by law and, therefore, that they were not going to make any additional appropriation—he did not say that much, but he did say this, that it was the position of his committee that the question of extending the Weeks law was a policy wholly in the discretion of the Agriculture Committee; and he did say, in so many words, that he did not intend to vote any further legislation or any further appropriation for the extension of the Weeks law until this committee had acted; and I asked him what that \$50,000 was to be used for, and he said that it was simply for the purpose of winding up some business that had already been in a way contracted for or commenced.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. What is the amount necessary to keep the

organization together?

Mr. Kincheloe. That is what he said, that there had been some contract, or surveys, already made, and that that amount was necessary; but he did give me the impression that they were not going to make any additional appropriation until, as he said, the proper committee has passed on the proper policy. And in view of that fact and in view of the fact that everybody has got their mind made up on this thing, I think this committee ought to vote on that proposition now.

The CHAIRMAN. What was the authority for?

Mr. Kincheloe. I did not ask him.

The CHAIRMAN. If they have got the authority to appropriate that much money, they have the authority to appropriate a million.

Mr. Kincheloe. That was the point I was making, but he says that it is the policy, and that this committee will not appropriate further until the proper committee has taken some action about the matter—the committee charged with this duty.

In view of that, I think it is necessary before we adjourn that we should take some action, and I think that we ought to vote on this proposition before we adjourn.

It is only of remote interest to me, except that I think that it is a very meritorious thing, and I think that we ought to be prepared.

The CHAIRMAN. I have here a bill on the subject. This would give them authority; it cught to be acted upon now. The question is how much more should they have, how much more is contemplated. In all, there are at least 36 items here, and I think that most of them are subject to a point of order.

Mr. TINCHER. In order to get the matter properly before us, I move that the chairman be instructed to introduce, to report out, a bill in accordance with this tentative sheet here.

Mr. Ten Eyck. What is that?

Mr. TINCHER. We have it before us here.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the pleasure of the committee? The provisions are to increase the salary of the Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry to \$6,000. His salary is now \$5,000. It was suggested the other day that Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry be advanced to \$6,000, and that the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey be advanced to \$4,500. He now gets \$4,000, and that the librarian be advanced to \$2,500; his salary is now \$2,000; the Bureau of Markets increased to \$6,000; the Bureau of Animal Industry is increased to \$6,000; Plant Industry, \$6,000; Forestry, \$6,000. They also suggest advances, three to six thousand. They are now limited to \$4,500, and five of them are advanced to \$5,500, and seven to \$5,000.

We have a draft of this proposed bill before us, and that advances all of them. They all may be advanced to \$5,000. If the first suggestion is to be accepted, then the bill would carry a provision that not more than five should receive in excess of \$5,000, but not in excess of \$5,500 each, and no more than three in excess of \$5,500, but not in excess of \$6,000; not more than seven in excess of \$4,500, but not in excess of \$5,000.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. I thought that the Assistant Secretary said that they wanted three at \$6,000, five at \$5,500, and seven at \$5,000. That would

be 15 altogether.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, and the bureau chiefs, in addition to that, Mr. McLaughlin. In addition to that they want the bureau chiefs advanced, as I have stated here, such as the increase of the director of regulatory work to \$6,000, the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry to \$6,000, the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry to \$6,000, the Chief of the Bureau of Forestry to \$6,000, the Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry to \$6,000, the Chief of the Bureau of Markets to \$6,000, the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey to \$4,500, the Chief of the Division of Accounts and Disbursements to \$4,000, and the librarian to \$2,500.

They are asking for that in addition to these others.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. How many of them are there?

The CHAIRMAN. There would be about six of them. There are about 25 salaries affected

Mr. Aswell. What is the total amount?

The CHAIRMAN. I do not know what it would make.

Mr. CLAGUE. Do you want this in the record?

The Chairman. Just as you like.

Mr. Tincher. I think that what is contemplated by the motion is that you report out a bill showing the salary increases in accordance with the talk that you had with the department and the figures you have given us.

, Mr. TEN EYCK. What effect will this bill have on what we are doing now?

Mr. Tincher. It will have this effect. If some one should make a point of order, Mr. Anderson would say, "All right; the point of order is well taken, but the policy of this thing has been decided by the Committee on Agriculture, and they have a bill on the calendar." And then if it were put in on the Senate side, and this bill comes properly before the House and we vote on it, then we will be able to advance these salaries, in accordance with this policy. We will have a bill on the calendar.

Mr. WILLIAMS. We can not possibly reach this before we reach the Agricul-

ture appropriation bill.

The CHAIRMAN. If you will pardon me for just a minute, I think that we ought to increase the salary of the director of scientific work, Doctor Ball. Out of modesty, he is not asking for his salary to be increased. He is now receiving

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. I think that we ought to advance his salary with the others, and also the director of work to \$6,000.

Mr. TEN EYCK. I think we ought.

Mr. WILLIAMS, Doctor Ball ought to be in there. He is a very valuable man, The CHAIRMAN, You appree ate that his modesty would not permit to ask for an increase for himself.

Mr. Tincher. Let's vote it out.

The Chairman. Are you ready for the question—and also, how about section 2 here, that upon the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture not to exceed 10 per cent of any amounts appropriated by Congress for miscellaneous expense of the work of any bureau, division, or office in the Department of Agriculture shall be available, interchangeably, for expenditure on the objects included within the general expense of such bureau, division, or office.

Mr. Kincheloe. We have got that amendment here.

Mr. TINCHER. That ought to be in the bill.

Mr. Kincheloe. That is an emergency measure, and ought to be in the bill.

The Chairman. Are you ready for the question?

(The question having been duly seconded, prevailed.)

Mr. KINCHELOE, I move that the chairman report H. R. 9667, the Weeks Act, with the amendment stricken out and the words \$2,000,000 stricken out and insert in line eight, after the words, "shall appropriate" "not exceeding \$1,-Q00,000 thereafter.'

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want to make that permanent law or limit it to this year?

Mr. Kincheloe. No; it is limited here to 20 years.

The CHAIRMAN. From the year beginning June 30, 1923, and each fiscal year thereafter, up to and including the fiscal year ending June 30, 1943.

Mr. Sinclair. That is the Wason bill?

The Chairman. Yes; this provides for each fiscal year. Do you want it for each fiscal year?

Mr. KINCHELOE. That fixes the maximum amount.

The CHAIRMAN. I know; but you do not want to make it a permanent law?

Mr. Kincheloe, Change it to \$1,000,000.

The Chairman, Yes.

Mr. KINCHELOE, I think that we ought to fix a maximum amount.

The CHAIRMAN. We have a bill before us now regulating the whole.

Mr. Kincheloe. Well, that may be, but I do not think that this would affect the Weeks bill. I think that we ought to get this before the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want to make it for one year? That is what I am asking.

Mr. KINCHELOE. What is that?

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want to make it for one year?

Mr. KINCHELOE. For one year?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. I take it that it should be for one year.

Mr. KINCHELOE, Well, the agricultural bill does not carry but \$50,000 for 1923.

The CHAIRMAN. No; but this gives \$1,000,000, instead of the \$50,000.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. And this would go on from year to year. The CHAIRMAN. And we have the Snell bill before the committee.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Why would this bill conflict with the Weeks bill?

The CHAIRMAN. That would be a permanent policy.

Mr. KINCHELOE, But if it is a permanent policy, why can they not make that appropriation this year?

The CHAIRMAN. No; it has expired.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. The policy is limited, then?

The CHAIRMAN. The time was limited. Now, it is a question as to whether we want to make it permanent.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. As to whether we want to make it permanent.

The CHAIRMAN. Or make it from year to year.

Mr. KINCHELOE. We could make this for the appropriation for this year \$1,000,000. But I think, of course, that the work should go on.

Mr. TINCHER. The Snell bill and the Capper bill make it \$2,000,000.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. This is the only bill I know of along this line. Mr. SINCLAIR. There is another bill that has reference to navigable streams.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. That has reference to the policy of the Government continuing buying land for the purpose of protecting navigable streams, and the amount of money that is to be expended for any one year is limited.

Mr. Kincheloe. Absolutely. That is what this provides.

The CHAIRMAN. This provides for the appropriation of \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year up to and including June 30, 1943. Why not make it for this year and let each year hereafter take care of itself, and then we could pass this other bill and get some permanent legislation and adopt a policy.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. The other bill is the one that relates to that.

The Chairman. Absolutely.

Mr. Williams. We will never get the Snell bill through this session.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan. I would like to see something go through that would provide for \$1,000,000 for this year. That is the way we should do, 1 think, limit the expenditure for any one year.

The CHAIRMAN. That can be done by striking out lines 6, 7, and part of line 8

of this bill.

Mr. Kincheloe, I move that be done.

(The motion having been duly seconded.)

(Whereupon, the committee adjourned.)

(There is printed as follows a letter and resolution received from Senator M. O. Mish.)

> STATE OF MARYLAND. Annapolis, Md., February 28, 1922.

Hon. GILBERT N. HAUGEN,

Member of Congress, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Sir: I herewith inclose a copy of a resolution stabilizing sundry farm products which was passed by the Maryland Senate by a vote of 21 yeas to 4 nays after a very long and sharp debate on the open floor of the senate. As your committee has the Sinclair bill before you. I would like to have you consider this resolution in relation to that bill. No doubt you have had many other petitions and resolutions before you on the same subject, but I doubt if you have had any which is quite so significant as this one. It practically is a petition of 1,400,000 citizens of an eastern, not a western State, and includes the great city of Baltimore with its population of more than 700,000. I will say that in the vote, the labor senators from Baltimore city voted for this resolution while the corporation lawyers voted consistently and persistently against it to the end. The labor senators believed and so expressed themselves that the farmer would have to be pulled out of the hole or they would be pulled down to his level, and of the two courses they preferred to see the farmer and the country raised out of the terrible depression in which they are now engulfed.

Yours truly,

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE STABILIZATION OF SUNDRY BASIC FARM PRODUCTS.

Whereas the basic industry of agriculture is now in the depths of the greatest depression in the history of the Republic, in which over 40,000,000 of our farm population have lost their purchasing power; and

Whereas the loss of this purchasing power is reflected on the paved streets of our great cities, where more than 5,000,000 jobless, helpless, breadless workmen tramp the highways seeking work that can not be found; and

Whereas the helpless farmer can not help the helpless industrial worker on account of his own helplessness and lack of organization; and

Whereas the National Government insisted on a price guarantee and stabilization of markets for farm products during the late World War when the farmers did not need and did not want it; and

Whereas the time has now come when they do need it and do want it, not only for their own welfare but for the welfare of the entire Nation. Now. therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of Maryland, in session assembled, on this 14th day of

February, A. D. 1922:

First. That we recommend and urge upon the President of the United States, the Senators and Representatives of the States of Maryland, in Washington, that they quickly cooperate, unite, pass and approve a bill for the immediate stabilization of at least three of the basic products of the farm, for enough at least to pay the cost of production, but not exceeding wheat at \$2 per bushel, corn at \$1 per bushel, and wool at 60 cents per pound, all of which command the power of precedent in that the United States Government has already decided it to be right, proper, and legal to stabilize and did stabilize, by the guarantee of a minimum price, these products of the farm at a time when neither the country nor the farmer needed such stabilization. How much more necessary, therefore, is it now to stabilize these products in order that prosperity may return. not only to the fields and furrows of the farms, but that, with renewed purchasing power, the farmer may start again the wheels of industry and provide jobs for the jobless, help for the helpless, and bread for the breadless.

Second. That the United States Grain Corporation be revived with a fair

and friendly board of directors and provided with one-half the capital that was heretofore used to exploit and plunder the farmer who was more interested in winning the World War than in the winning a competence against the day of

misfortune which has now arrived.

Third. That a copy of this resolution be mailed by the secretary of senate to the President of the United States, to the Maryland Senators and Representatives, and to the members of the agricultural bloc in Washington, that they may be encouraged to continue the work for the farmer which they have thus far so nobly carried on.

Which was read and adopted by yeas and nays, as follows: Yeas, 21; nays, 4.

E. R. CROTHERS, Secretary of the Senate.

FEBRUARY 14, 1922.

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